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Bureau of  
Statistics**

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## Australian Capital Territory

ABS Catalogue No. 1303.8

## NOTES

### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

#### ISSUE

#### RELEASE DATE

January 1996

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February 1996

End February 1996

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

— nil or rounded to zero  
n.a. not available  
p preliminary  
n.p. not available for publication

### INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Leonie Peadon on Canberra (06) 207 0286 or any ABS State office.

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, or 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

Dalma Jacobs  
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the November 1995 issue are: labour force, industrial disputes; housing finances, building approvals; price indexes; average weekly earnings; retail turnover; and new motor vehicle registrations.

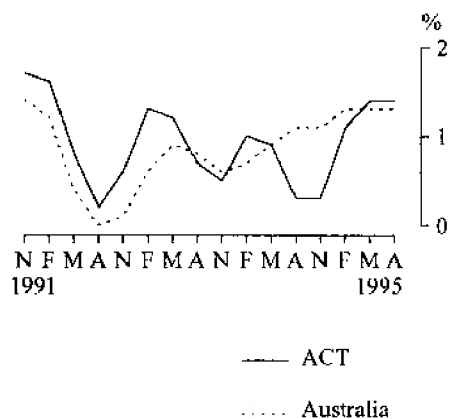
### NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

Notable movements in this issue include:

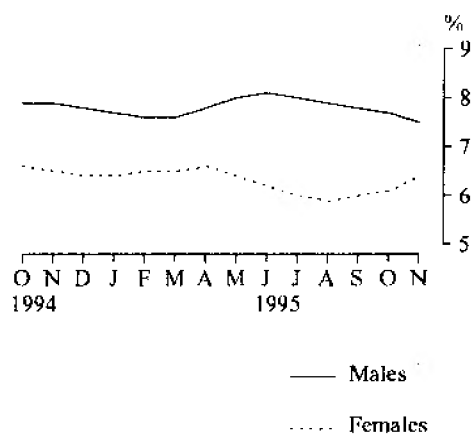
Labour force	The ACT had the lowest trend rate of unemployment of all the States and Territories with 7.0% of the ACT labour force looking for work in November 1995. Queensland had the highest unemployment rate with 9.8%, while the national average stood at 8.6% in the month. The trend number of people employed in the ACT increased in November 1995 to 160,200, an increase of 0.1%.
Industrial disputes	There were no working days lost due to industrial disputes in August 1995 for the ACT, and only 5 working days per 1,000 employees were lost in the ACT in the year ending August 1995. Nationally there were 43.3 days lost in the month and 86 days over the year.
Housing finance	The trend number of dwelling units financed in the ACT during September 1995 increased by 2.3% from August 1995. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT in September 1995 was \$75.8 million, an increase of 1.6% on the previous month.
Building approvals	October 1995 produced the second consecutive month of increases in the trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT with 174 approvals, an increase of 3.4%. Nationally the trend total number of dwelling units approved fell by 2.2%.
Average weekly earnings	Trend estimates of average weekly earnings for the ACT continued the steady upward movement of the past two years. The average weekly earnings for August 1995 was \$626.10, an increase of 1.9% from the previous month. Nationally average weekly earnings increased by 0.6% to \$551.30.
Retail turnover	The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for October 1995 was \$183.8 million, a decrease of 0.2% from the previous month. The largest decrease in turnover for the ACT occurred within the hospitality and services industry (1.0%). National trend retail turnover increased by 7.6% over the last 12 months compared to 4.6% for the ACT.
New motor vehicle registrations	The trend estimate for new motor vehicle registrations for the ACT in October 1995 was 939, a fall of 2.4% from September 1995, but 0.3% higher than for October 1994. Nationally trend estimates in October 1995 were 1.8% lower than the previous month and 3.2% lower than the October 1994 figure.

## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

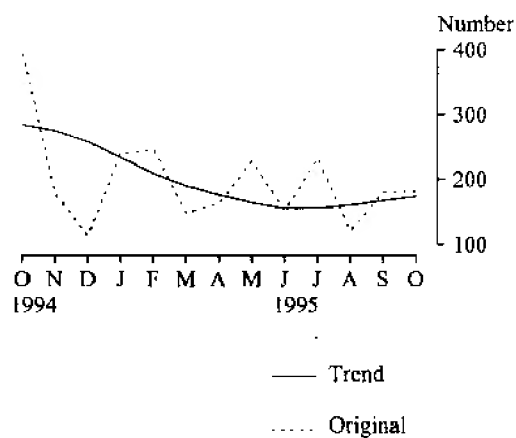
AVERAGE WEEKLY  
EARNINGS — TREND, FULL  
TIME ADULT  
ORDINARY-TIME EARNINGS



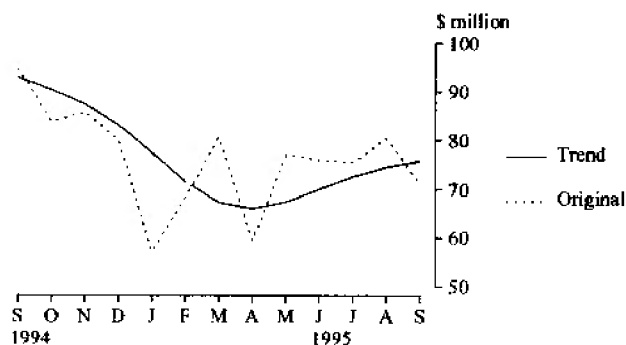
LABOUR FORCE — TREND  
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



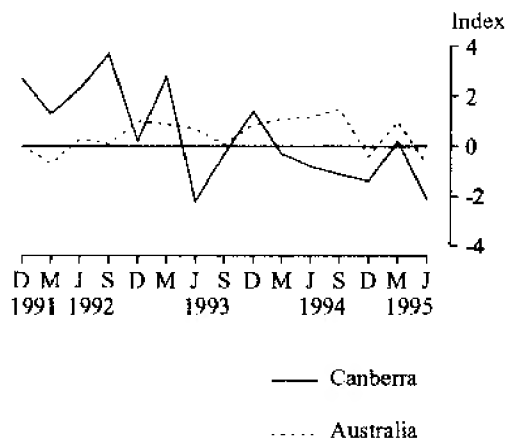
BUILDING APPROVALS  
NUMBER OF DWELLING  
UNITS APPROVED



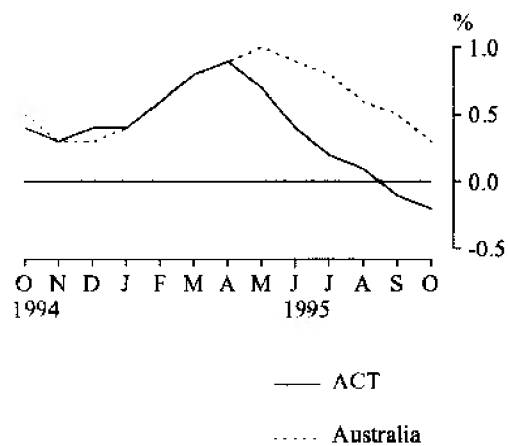
# HOUSING FINANCE



## ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICE INDEX, PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER



## RETAIL TURNOVER — ALL GROUPS — TREND PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH



# 1

## AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, DECEMBER QUARTER 1995/SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1996 EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
	%	%
<b>Short-term</b>		
Sept. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1994	1.1	3.6
Dec. qtr 1994-Mar. qtr 1995	-1.3	-0.5
Mar. qtr 1995-June qtr 1995	5.2	1.4
June qtr 1995-Sept. qtr 1995	0.8	1.3
Sept. qtr 1995-Dec. qtr 1995	2.0	2.1
<b>Medium-term</b>		
Sept. qtr 1994-Sept. qtr 1995	1.5	2.9
Dec. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1995	3.5	3.3
Mar. qtr 1995-Mar. qtr 1996	3.0	3.0
June qtr 1995-June qtr 1996	-10.8	2.3
Sept. qtr 1995-Sept. qtr 1996	3.1	3.4

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from		Latest figure	Change from	
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year
			%	%		%	%
<b>POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR</b>							
POPULATION, March qtr 95	'000s	303.9	0.8	1.2	18 000.5	0.4	1.1
Natural increase	no.	841	6.7	- 1.2	36 667	10.2	1.4
Net migration	no.	1 384	- 325.0	- 6 390.9	31 992	263.6	63.7
Total increase	no.	2 225	1 186.1	168.4	68 659	63.2	23.3
LABOUR FORCE, November 95							
Original series							
Employed	'000s	159.9	0.1	1.8	8 329.8	0.8	3.8
Unemployed	'000s	11.9	22.7	20.2	736.8	- 0.3	- 3.6
Unemployment rate <sup>1</sup>	%	6.9	1.1	1.0	8.1	- 0.1	- 0.6
Participation rate <sup>1</sup>	%	74.3	1.4	1.4	63.8	- 0.4	1.0
Long-term unemployed (October 95)	no.	2 038	- 7.6	- 9.2	237 149	1.3	- 15.0
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (October 95) <sup>1</sup>	%	21.0	0.2	3.2	32.1	1.4	- 4.9
Trend series							
Employed	'000s	160.2	0.1	3.7	8 284.6	0.1	3.1
Unemployed	'000s	12.0	—	- 0.8	779.4	0.8	- 3.4
Unemployment rate <sup>1</sup>	%	7.0	—	- 0.3	8.6	0.1	- 0.5
Participation rate <sup>1</sup>	%	74.5	0.1	1.8	63.8	—	0.7
JOB VACANCIES, August 95	'000s	0.8	- 35.2	- 65.6	62.0	15.5	- 9.8
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, August 95							
Working days lost	'000s	—	- 100.0	—	43.3	19.0	12.5
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended August 95)	no.	5	—	- 93.3	86.0	1.2	16.2
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b>							
HOUSING FINANCE, September 95							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	6.9	- 22.5	- 44.8	506.9	- 12.6	- 30.1
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	8.6	- 11.3	- 58.5	116.1	- 7.8	- 18.6
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	37.8	- 15.1	- 28.3	2 791.2	- 6.5	- 2.7
Total housing commitments	\$m	71.0	- 11.1	- 24.8	3 474.1	- 7.5	- 8.9
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	70.8	- 6.2	- 23.0	3 631.1	10.2	- 7.4
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	797	2.3	- 17.6	37 787.0	1.6	- 8.3
Total housing commitments	\$m	75.8	1.6	- 18.2	3 604.1	1.1	- 3.8
BUILDING APPROVALS, October 95							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	18.2	1.1	- 53.8	10 348.0	- 6.5	- 33.5
Value of new residential	\$m	18.5	- 1.1	- 54.7	1 015.2	- 5.9	- 24.5
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	5.6	19.1	- 20.0	196.8	- 3.1	- 20.6
Value of non-residential	\$m	17.1	18.8	48.7	1 162.5	34.4	31.2
Value of total building	\$m	41.2	8.7	- 30.6	2 374.9	10.6	- 4.2
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	174	3.6	- 38.9	10 295.0	- 2.2	- 35.4
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, June qtr 95							
New houses	no.	314	- 4.6	- 14.7	24 591.0	1.1	- 26.6
Value of houses commenced	\$m	35.9	- 7.2	- 17.1	2 486.8	4.8	- 21.0
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	59.9	7.9	19.3	2 336.2	- 18.3	- 7.4
Value of total commencements	\$m	123.3	- 5.4	- 22.5	6 458.9	- 5.7	- 12.3
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, June qtr 95	(1989-90 =100.0)	128.1	- 2.1	- 4.3	112.4	- 0.7	1.4
<b>PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING</b>							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, September qtr 95							
	(1989-90 =100.0)						
Food		117.2	0.4	4.4	115.4	1.5	4.5
Housing		111.3	0.5	11.6	105.4	0.7	11.1
Transportation		126.8	3.8	6.0	122.0	2.7	4.3
All groups		119.1	1.3	5.8	117.6	1.2	5.1

For footnotes see end of table.

# AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, DECEMBER 1995 — continued

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from		Latest figure	Change from	
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year
			%	%		%	%
<b>PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING</b> — continued							
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, August 95							
Original series							
Males	\$	733.00	2.0	3.7	634.80	0.3	3.2
Females	\$	511.30	-1.0	2.1	429.50	-0.1	1.9
Total persons	\$	623.40	1.2	3.7	547.80	-0.1	2.0
Trend series							
Males	\$	731.40	1.9	3.3	658.30	0.8	3.6
Females	\$	520.00	1.5	4.2	432.10	0.5	1.8
Total persons	\$	626.10	1.9	4.3	551.30	0.6	2.4
RETAIL TURNOVER, October 95							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	75.4	2.7	7.4	3 997.1	3.2	10.2
Department stores	\$m	23.2	13.2	—	920.8	7.5	-1.5
Hospitality and services	\$m	30.2	4.9	7.5	1 775.1	2.6	6.3
All other retailing	\$m	57.6	2.3	-3.0	3 241.8	3.1	4.9
Total	\$m	186.4	4.1	3.0	9 934.8	3.4	6.6
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	74.7	—	10.3	3 987.23	0.7	10.8
Department stores	\$m	23.7	-0.8	0.9	954.8	-0.6	2.7
Hospitality and services	\$m	28.3	-1.0	2.5	1 745.3	0.3	7.8
All other retailing	\$m	57.1	0.4	0.2	3 248.9	0.1	5.2
Total	\$m	183.8	-0.2	4.6	9 936.2	0.3	7.6
<b>TOURISM AND TRANSPORT</b>							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, March qtr 95							
Original series							
Room nights	'000s	212.8	-1.4	4.1	8 746.2	-3.4	4.7
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.8	2.2	7.4	776.7	-2.5	10.3
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.2	—	3.2	676.7	-4.2	6.0
Room occupancy rate (June qtr 95)	%	64.0	-2.1	3.2	56.1	-3.4	3.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000s	218.9	7.4	3.6	8 919.2	0.8	4.7
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.4	9.6	7.2	787.6	2.6	10.3
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.7	7.7	3.1	686.1	0.9	6.0
Trend series							
Room nights	'000s	215.5	3.0	2.9	8 936.2	1.4	5.0
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.0	3.3	6.7	787.7	2.8	10.9
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.3	0.6	1.9	687.6	1.6	7.8
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, October 95							
Motor vehicles	no.	935	-12.2	3.9	53 460	8.5	-1.6
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	911	-10.7	-3.7	52 645	4.0	-4.9
Trend motor vehicles	no.	939	-2.4	0.3	50 614	-1.8	-3.2
<b>AGGREGATE INDICATORS</b>							
STATE ACCOUNTS, June qtr 95 <sup>2</sup>							
Original series							
Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 124	11.1	3.3	103 210	4.0	3.8
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 438	9.6	4.5	114 566	5.0	5.9
State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 943	8.5	-2.0	105 252	8.0	4.3
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 342	5.8	6.4	71 313	4.8	7.7
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	205	1.5	-34.7	19 115	10.2	1.4
Trend series							
Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 064	0.4	2.5	104 172	0.3	2.8
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 391	0.7	4.0	115 612	1.3	5.6
State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 872	-0.7	-1.9	104 151	0.5	4.1
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 359	1.2	5.3	72 352	1.7	6.9
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	206	-12.3	-29.7	18 710	-2.4	2.0

<sup>1</sup> Change shown in terms of percentage points.

<sup>2</sup> State estimates are not comparable to national estimates for June quarter 1995 due to revised aggregates in State Accounts (5242.0).

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>POPULATION</b>	'000s	Mar. qtr 95	6 097.6	4 496.3	3 256.0	1 473.0	1 724.2	473.2	173.5	303.9	18 000.5
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>											
Employed persons (trend)	'000s	Nov. 95	2 802.5	2 048.1	1 506.3	655.4	829.9	199.5	79.4	160.2	8 284.6
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Nov. 95	7.8	9.2	9.8	9.4	7.5	9.5	7.3	7.0	8.6
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup></b>											
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	June qtr 95	35 383	27 562	17 150	7 462	11 622	2 110	1 180	2 064	104 172
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	\$m	June qtr 95	39 498	30 343	18 766	8 599	12 270	2 437	1 252	2 391	115 612
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Oct. 95	3 544	2 002	2 502	519	1 265	225	109	182	10 348
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Oct. 95	3 528	1 958	2 398	599	1 346	227	102	174	10 295
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Oct. 95	431.9	382.1	188.2	69.2	48.5	16.5	8.9	17.1	1 162.5
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Oct. 95	896.5	639.4	440.9	118.8	177.4	37.9	22.2	41.2	2 374.4
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	June qtr 95	1 392.0	697.4	770.3	201.0	485.9	65.3	63.5	38.6	3 713.9
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Aug. qtr 95	686.00	646.10	612.20	616.50	658.30	606.80	663.80	745.50	654.20
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Oct. 95	3 534.5	2 247.3	1 813.4	774.9	1 027.3	236.4	118.4	183.8	9 936.2
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000s	Mar. qtr 95	3 021.2	1 459.8	2 368.6	507.2	799.3	264.0	298.5	215.5	8 936.2
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>											
Trend	no.	Oct. 95	17 889	11 926	9 629	3 381	5 053	1 176	612	939	50 614
			Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)</b>											
Food		Sept. qtr 95	116.0	113.5	115.4	117.8	116.6	117.3	115.3	117.2	115.4
Housing		Sept. qtr 95	107.4	102.4	111.4	102.7	100.0	106.0	116.5	111.3	105.4
Transportation		Sept. qtr 95	121.1	122.4	120.1	124.4	123.4	119.4	119.0	126.8	122.0
All Groups		Sept. qtr 95	117.3	117.6	117.9	120.1	115.6	118.4	118.0	119.1	117.6
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Aug. qtr 95	108.0	113.0	111.0	110.0	112.0	120.0	100.0	109.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Aug. qtr 95	179.0	160.0	171.0	139.0	163.0	156.0	185.0	185.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Aug. qtr 95	1 260.0	1 120.0	1 138.0	1 121.0	1 120.0	1 148.0	1 258.0	1 186.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Aug. qtr 95	295.0	321.0	294.0	323.0	324.0	346.0	359.0	302.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Aug. qtr 95	98.0	137.0	106.0	87.0	121.0	71.0	123.0	110.0	n.a.
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	Aug. qtr 95	573.0	561.0	602.0	546.0	583.0	653.0	520.0	568.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Aug. qtr 95	306.0	260.0	242.0	316.0	357.0	211.0	296.0	274.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	1 litre	Aug. qtr 95	70.6	71.1	63.8	72.0	75.4	75.4	76.4	75.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	1 litre	Aug. qtr 95	68.6	69.1	61.8	69.1	73.4	73.4	74.4	73.0	n.a.

<sup>1</sup> State estimates are not comparable to national estimates for June quarter 1995 due to revised aggregates in State Accounts (5242.0).

## ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>POPULATION</b>										
	Mar. qtr 95	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.8	0.8	0.4
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>										
Employed persons (trend)	Nov. 95	0.3	-0.1	—	-0.1	—	—	0.6	0.1	0.1
Unemployment rate (trend) <sup>1</sup>	Nov. 95	0.1	—	0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1	—	0.1
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS<sup>2</sup></b>										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	June qtr 95	0.3	0.7	0.4	1.3	0.9	0.1	1.0	0.4	0.3
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	June qtr 95	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.5	1.9	1.2	2.5	0.7	1.3
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>										
Dwelling units approved	Oct. 95	-8.4	-6.4	-0.9	-12.3	-10.3	-10.7	69	1.1	-6.5
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Oct. 95	-3.4	-2.5	-3.9	2.9	-0.8	0.4	-12.1	3.6	-2.4
Value of non-residential building approved	Oct. 95	69.0	68.0	-15.5	122.5	-38.6	-11.3	-43.3	18.8	34.4
Value of all buildings approved	Oct. 95	18.8	30.4	-10.1	34.7	-18.4	-7.1	-19.6	8.7	10.6
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>										
Value of engineering construction work done	June qtr 95	27.8	17.6	15.1	27.9	30.1	29.3	26.7	12.2	23.1
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Aug. qtr 95	1.8	0.8	1.2	0.3	1.8	0.3	0.6	1.4	1.3
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>										
Retail turnover (trend)	Oct. 95	0.7	-0.2	-0.3	0.3	1.0	-0.1	0.8	-0.2	0.3
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Mar. qtr 95	0.4	3.7	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.0	-3.2	3.0	1.4
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>										
Trend	Sept. 95	-1.3	-1.4	-3.4	-1.3	1.2	1.0	-3.2	3.0	1.4
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)</b>										
Food	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.	
Housing	Sept. qtr 95	1.8	1.6	0.8	2.1	0.8	1.0	-0.2	0.4	1.5
Transportation	Sept. qtr 95	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.7
All Groups	Sept. qtr 95	3.7	2.1	2.3	2.5	1.6	1.9	2.2	3.8	2.7
	Sept. qtr 95	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2
<b>Average retail prices (cents)</b>										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Aug. qtr 95	0.9	1.8	—	5.8	3.7	2.6	1.0	—	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Aug. qtr 95	1.1	3.9	1.8	0.7	5.2	-0.6	—	5.1	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Aug. qtr 95	-0.6	4.9	0.7	-1.6	-1.9	-0.6	—	2.6	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Aug. qtr 95	-2.6	1.3	0.3	-1.5	-3.9	-1.1	2.6	3.0	n.a.
Potatoes	Aug. qtr 95	-8.4	0.7	-2.8	-13.0	-2.4	-6.6	4.4	7.1	n.a.
Coffee, instant	Aug. qtr 95	-1.7	-3.4	4.9	-4.5	4.9	2.7	0.8	0.9	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Aug. qtr 95	1.3	1.6	1.3	0.3	-1.7	-0.5	1.2	-4.2	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	Aug. qtr 95	2.5	0.9	1.9	1.0	3.4	4.0	2.6	3.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	Aug. qtr 95	2.5	0.9	2.0	—	3.5	4.1	2.6	3.1	n.a.

<sup>1</sup> Change shown in terms of percentage points.

<sup>2</sup> State estimates are not comparable to national estimates for June quarter 1995 due to revised aggregates in State Accounts (5242.0).



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